Why participate in Virtual Field Trips and Special Events?

It has been said that children, teenagers, and even adults learn more through their experiences. That is why so many schools today are integrating virtual excursions and events into their curriculum. With so many new content providers available, these programmes are gaining widespread popularity.

Virtual field trips, content providers, special curriculum events and school-to-school collaborations enable students to enhance their knowledge by taking classroom learning further. Experiences trigger senses – through virtual events, students are able to visually see the colours on a canvas painting, to understand why an Author wrote the character the way they did, to hear the sounds a whale makes, to emotionally relate to a Holocaust survivor's story, and to empathize with a group of students from a war-torn country.

A classroom, which connects using videoconferencing to any form of virtual experience, enables students to collect all facets of an experience and learn in new and innovative ways. Think about a student who struggles – this entertaining, informative and stimulating method may be exactly what they need to excel.

Lynnette Whitfield, Polycom Director of Education Industry Solutions, APAC

AARNet & Polycom Special Events launch exciting new Programmes

**INTERNATIONAL MATHS DAY**

Thursday 24 March marked an event around Asian Contemporary Art Week, called “DISCOVER CHINA”. St Lorraine’s Kindergarten (aged five, in Yuen Long, China), Abbotsleigh ELC (aged four, in Wahroonga, NSW Australia) connected to AARNet and Polycom Special Events for a LIVE cultural “Art” exchange. Students practiced their English and Mandarin by asking each other questions. Abbotsleigh students shared their “Art” of music by singing Xiao Bai Tu in Mandarin (Little White Rabbit – celebrating the Year of the Rabbit). St Lorraine’s Kindergarten and Abbotsleigh ELS also counted (in English then Mandarin) from one to ten. The students from St Lorraine’s topped off the cultural exchange by sharing their “Art” of Chinese Calligraphy with a teacher instructing both schools on how to write numbers using Chinese calligraphy. The event finished with both schools singing Waltzing Matilda. Thank you to St Lorraine’s and Abbotsleigh ELC for taking part in this important event.

On 1 March, 2011, Polycom Special Events held their first event in celebration of International Maths Day. Tenix Questacon Maths Squad created an innovative virtual learning event around math; specifically geometry, algebra and tessellation. Forty-six students in years nine and ten from The Scots College (Bellevue Hill, NSW) and Abbotsleigh Girls Grammar School (Wahroonga, NSW) participated and completed pre-organised math activities using Polycom videoconference technology. AARNet provided the back-end support and monitored the event.

**DISCOVER CHINA**

**DISCOVER INDIA**

Polycom's third special event was held on Wednesday 30 March called “DISCOVER INDIA”. Coutts Crossing Public School's grade 5 and 6 students in rural NSW connected to Questacon – the National Science and Technology Centre in Canberra, Australia. The students learned about India's geography, Indian culture, festivals, customs, and even participated in a yoga lesson. They also held a discussion on Indian food and participated in a live “Science of Spices” experiment using Turmeric, a paper towel, white vinegar, baking soda and methylated spirits. The event closed with a dance workshop where the boys and girls both choreographed together in a LIVE Bollywood Dance off! Thank you to Coutts Crossing Public School for taking part in this new event.

If your school would like to take part in cultural exchanges please contact Lynnette Whitfield (see last page for contact details).

Register now for upcoming Special Events as listed on pg 2
**How to Register for Polycom Special Event sessions:**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

DOWNLOAD:
- “HOW to Register for CAPspace and book your Special Event”
- “HOW to Test your system for our Special Events”

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**JUNE**

**6 June: World Environment Day**
Event Content Providers to include:
- Questacon – Antarctica Extreme Environment
- ReefHQ – The Living Reef
- Green Cross Australia – The Green Lane Diaries / Pre Dr Goodall Warm-Up
- Abbotleigh Centre for Environment Education (ACEE) presents Dr Jane Goodall

**8 June: World Ocean’s Day**
Content Providers to include:
- ReefHQ
- Green Cross Australia

**20 June: Questacon**
- LIVE FROM ANTARCTICA (one school per state for live interaction)

**21 June: Square Kilometre Array**
- SKA – The World’s Biggest Telescope – in our backyard? LIVE from Questacon

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**JULY**

**6 July: Teacher Professional Development Workshops**
- “How to use ChromaKey technology (Green Screen)” LIVE from Questacon
(National Science and Technology Centre) Studio 1:30- 2:30 GMT+10

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**AUGUST / SEPTEMBER**

**15-19 August: National Science Week 2011**
With Event Content Provider presenters
- CSIRO Science Discovery
- Questacon National Science Week Event LIVE from Questacon
- 18 AUG 10.00am – 3.00pm: Victoria Space Science Education Centre
  (LIVE from VSSEC)

**22 August – 2nd September: Polycom 2nd Annual Literary Festival**
Authors and Workshops to include:
- 22 AUG 9.00am: Virtual BOOK LAUNCH of Warambi – Aleesah Darlison
- 22 AUG 11.30am: “ASK the Illustrator” – Nina Rycroft
- 23 AUG 9.00am: Virtual BOOK LAUNCH of Totally Twins – Aleesah Darlison
- 24 AUG 9.00am: NEW Book by Laurine Croasdale Aussie Chomps – iHarry
- 24 AUG 11.30am: “ASK the Author” – Nina Rycroft
- 25 AUG 2.00pm: “Developing & Writing your HSC English Major Work” – Laurine Croasdale
- 30 AUG 9.00am: “Poetry Workshop” – Jeni Mawter
- 1 SEPT 9.00am: “Writing Adventure” – Jeni Mawter
- 2 SEPT 9.00am: Virtual BOOK LAUNCH Ships in the Field – Suzanne Gervay
- 2 SEPT 11.30am: Writers Workshop, “Making Stories Easy” – Suzanne Gervay

Where times are listed, time zone is GMT +10. Session dates and times are correct at the time of printing this Newsletter, however, they are subject to change. Please find up-to-date scheduling at www.polycom.com.au/special_events.
Did you know Polycom sponsors a Content Provider Database?

www.vccontentproviders.org

Go online and check out some of the amazing programs they are offering which are available to all schools (event if your school does not use Polycom).

As of June 1, our Polycom equipped Content Providers programs listed on www.vccontentproviders.org include:

**ReefHQ**
- Introduction to Australia's Great Barrier Reef (K-HigherEd)
- Managing the Great Barrier Reef (Grade 6-12)
- The Living Reef (Grade 3-6)

**Questacon**
- The Science of Australia (Grade 4-7)

**Charles Sturt**
- Remote Telescope Project
  - Charles Sturt University Remote Telescope (Grade 5-10)

**Literature Live**
- Creating Cool, Kooky Characters with Allesah Darlison (Grade 3-6)
- Date with a Picture Book with Allesah Darlison (K-Grade 3)
- Literature Live (Grade 3-12)

**National Museum of Australia**
- Extension History (Grade 10-12)

**Green Cross Australia**
- Extreme Weather (Grade 4-7)
- Inspiring Kids – Green Lane Diaries (Grade 4-8)

**Victoria Space Science Education Centre**
- Mars Rocks (Grade K-7)
- Star Search (Grade 5-8)
- Primary Science Experiments (Teacher Professional Development)
- Foldables in Science – (Teachers K-7 Professional Development)

**COMING SOON!**
- Museum of Contemporary Art

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**Polycom CONTENT PROVIDER Program**

**Videoconference is MORE than just communicating...**

**it’s sharing your experiences and ideas with the world!**

Polycom doesn’t just manufacture equipment for education, we help find content and schools to collaborate with you, after you purchase it! For example let’s look at National Career Development Week (May 16-20).

To assist schools, Polycom APAC Special Events created an event to help Career Counsellors. We lined up ten career specialists to help students gain an understanding of what a particular profession does.

These specialists included: Senator Kate Lundy talking to students about a career in Politics; Professor Adrian Walter about a career in music; Zoologist, Dr Michael Kearney; Biochemist and Anti-Cancer Researcher, Dr Erinna Lee; Geologist and Palaeontologist, Danielle Shean; Aerospace Engineer, Naomi Mathers; Audio, Visual and Lighting Engineer, Michael Quince; Town Development Planner for Geelong, Joanne Van Slageren; CEO/CIO of Hume Health Alliance, Dr Ed Rhode; Media Spokesperson for Telstra Corporation Craig Middleton; and Comic Legend Todd McFarlane (creator of Spawn Comics and Illustrator of Batman, Spiderman, The Incredible Hulk) who spoke about how to break into the comic and entertainment industry.

Students were able to ask questions and learned the intricacies of these professions.

“Thank you so much for the fabulous sessions that we have participated in Careers’ Week. It has been a great success at our end. Really authentic situations for the boys to hear experts speak about their own field, their day at work and their career paths. They were all well received by the boys and fostered discussions later. The Careers Counsellor has been very glad to be involved as well. I have some great photographs too for our case studies.”

Dr Jill Abell, The Hutchins School, Tasmania.
"Joanne Polk’s lecture-recital on women composers in 2010 was really inspiring. She got me fired up to create this new piano work after hearing her play - it’s wonderful how these things flow on to other creative endeavours.”
Dr Ruth Lee Martin

ANU School of Music Videoconference Programs
Collaborative Creations across Continents

The Australian National University and Manhattan School of Music recently held the second event of their Distance Learning Partnership for 2011. “Collaborative Creations across Continents” saw the world premiere of Dr Ruth Lee Martin’s new piano work The Winter It Is Past, performed by Dr Joanne Polk at the Manhattan School of Music in a live videoconference event and discussion. Dr Martin spoke about what inspired the compositional processes for this piece and the inspiration she continues to draw from the use of folk music. Following a moving performance, Dr Polk spoke about her insights into the work from the perspective of the performer and interpreter. Audience members interacted with both composer and performer in a lively Q&A discussion following the performance. See www.music.anu.edu.au/vc for more information and upcoming events.

Polycom wishes to congratulate ANU School of Music and Manhattan School of Music on their recent global partnership

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How to register for the 2011 Special Events

Visit the special events website www.polycom.com.au/special_events to see an up-to-date schedule and follow the easy steps to register and verify your equipment.

For more information please feel free to contact Lynnette Whitfield ...
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